

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT
APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1953

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HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

U.S. CONGRESS, HOUSE
" SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SECOND CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

MICHAEL KIRWAN, Ohio, *Chairman*

W. F. NORRELL, Arkansas

BEN F. JENSEN, Iowa

HENRY M. JACKSON, Washington

IVOR D. FENTON, Pennsylvania

FOSTER FURCOLO, Massachusetts

CARSON W. CULP, *Executive Secretary to Subcommittee*

PART 1

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Why don't we have another item or line of figures showing where that money has gone. When I see that, I say, "Well, here is the whole actual money of 1950, \$36,177,350." I assume that is going into the Treasury of the United States. And for 1951 it is \$49,082,331 Estimated for 1952 \$54 million and for 1953 \$57 million plus.

I say that is grand but when I look around to see where that money goes—States, counties—then I try to find out what part Uncle Sam has left, I cannot do it.

Mr. CLAWSON. We will be happy to give you the statement. There is no intention to conceal the facts.

Mr. NORRELL. I know that. But the statement is not quite complete without the other angle of it.

Mr. KIRWAN. Mr. Clawson, you made a good presentation for your Department. We are glad to have had you with us.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1952.

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

WITNESSES

DILLON S. MYER, COMMISSIONER

JOHN H. PROVINSE, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

EVAN FLORY, CHIEF, SOIL AND MOISTURE CONSERVATION BRANCH

OTIS BEASLEY, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

Mr. KIRWAN. We will now take up the budget for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Mr. Myer, if you have a general statement we will be glad to hear it at this time.

GENERAL STATEMENT

Mr. MYER. I have a brief statement I would like to make before we go into the individual items.

I would like to tell you very briefly about our general position and our point of view as to what we should be doing or where we think we should be going.

ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENCE OF INDIANS

First of all, we believe we should continue the program we have started of trying to work out plans with individual tribes, or groups of Indians, looking to the independence of Indians in regard to their economic matters.

We have made some progress on that which I will mention later. I have said to a number of groups of Indians recently, where the question as to our responsibility has been raised that we are perfectly willing, if they are ready to remove the trusteeship entirely to go with them to the Secretary and come to the Congress and request that the whole responsibility that we have be lifted.

Secondly, if they request a portion of the trusteeship to be lifted without having it all eliminated, we would like the opportunity to sit down with them and to program and consider what the interrelation-

ships are with that, the welfare services and the other services to be provided, and if we work out a program that we can agree upon then we would be glad to make recommendations on part of it as far as legislative action is concerned.

Thirdly, we are ready at any time, and we are doing it with some of the tribes, to sit down and see whether some of the responsibilities we now have can be delegated to them under a memorandum of agreement so that they can learn by doing and increase their tribal responsibilities.

RESPONSIBILITY OF BUREAU

We think we have a responsibility for carrying forward the effective development and conservation of resources, looking to the time when we will withdraw our services.

We are particularly interested in the review and transfer of those social and governmental functions which other agencies usually handle such as schools, health, law and order, and roads, and we transfer those responsibilities wherever it is possible to do so and where it can be done as cheaply and effectively as we are now doing it.

We believe we should have an effective training, placement, and relocation program for those younger Indians in particular who wish that kind of aid, in order to alleviate the poverty through the reduction of population in over-populated areas and add to our manpower needs in other areas in a more effective manner.

PROGRESS MADE

I would like to mention briefly the progress we feel has been made in the past several months.

Last year, as you will remember, the investigators of your committee made a number of recommendations which we have gone into and we think we have made good progress on administrative matters and other matters in line with those recommendations. I will not touch all of them now, but I would like to mention three or four.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

First of all, there was some criticism of our administrative procedures, the fact that objectives were not thoroughly stated in all cases. We have attacked this problem by having a thorough review of all of our procedures. We have reduced them to written procedures in manual form.

We have developed 148 chapters of which 86 have been distributed and 53 of the remaining chapters have been drafted to date.

In this connection I think the responsibilities, the objectives, the jobs to be done are very clearly set forth.

We have reviewed the delegations and we have added new delegations to the area and the agency offices and we have expanded some of the delegations that are already in existence.

We completed a review and revision of our reporting system. We are in the process of making a complete review of the whole property-management program, which was mentioned a number of times. We are well along with that review.

TRIBAL FUNDS

Amounts available for obligation

	1951 actual	1952 estimate	1953 estimate
Appropriation or estimate.....	\$57,418,065	\$17,039,000	\$17,040,000
Prior year balance available.....	44,027,265	80,566,400	78,117,400
Reimbursements from other accounts.....	210,914	200,000	200,000
Total available for obligation.....	101,656,244	97,805,400	95,357,400
Balance available in subsequent year.....	80,566,400	78,117,400	73,447,400
Obligations incurred.....	21,089,844	19,688,000	21,910,000

Obligations by activities

Description	1951 actual	1952 estimate	1953 estimate
1. Permanent authorizations:			
(a) Payment to Indian tribes.....	\$14,630,635	\$13,858,498	\$14,000,000
(b) Miscellaneous tribal activities.....	3,921,487	3,141,502	4,700,000
2. Annual authorizations:			
(a) Health, education, and welfare services.....	598,532	732,355	676,322
(b) Resource management.....	565,392	630,347	661,573
(c) Construction and land acquisition.....	109,540	78,846	96,500
(d) General administration of tribal affairs.....	626,697	746,452	900,606
3. Indefinite authorizations:			
(e) Tribal credit fund.....	637,561	500,000	875,000
Obligations incurred.....	21,089,844	19,688,000	21,910,000

Obligations by objects

Object classification	1951 actual	1952 estimate	1953 estimate
Total number of permanent positions.....	258	258	276
Full-time equivalent of all other positions.....	726	730	725
Average number of all employees.....	977	974	989
Average salaries and grades:			
General schedule grades:			
Average salary.....	\$3,450	\$3,939	\$3,957
Average grade.....	GS-5.1	GS-5.0	GS-5.0
Crafts, protective, and custodial grades:			
Average salary.....	\$2,988	\$3,412	\$3,438
Average grade.....	CPC-5.6	CPC-5.4	CPC-5.3
Ungraded positions: Average salary.....	\$2,491	\$3,758	\$3,782
01 Personal services:			
Permanent positions.....	\$826,593	\$910,231	\$999,025
Part-time and temporary positions.....	1,816,927	1,820,712	1,748,472
Regular pay in excess of 52-week base.....		3,501	3,842
Payment above basic rates.....	10,154	11,837	12,315
Total personal services.....	2,653,674	2,746,281	2,763,649
02 Travel.....	94,127	104,412	112,245
03 Transportation of things.....	15,961	16,697	18,795
04 Communication services.....	9,782	8,905	9,875
05 Rents and utility services.....	28,687	29,184	35,000
06 Printing and reproduction.....	3,453	1,450	3,000
07 Other contractual services.....	932,154	814,794	1,196,210
08 Supplies and materials.....	986,831	968,135	1,185,349
09 Equipment.....	118,976	56,349	78,000
10 Lands and structures.....	463,413	105,350	198,500
11 Grants, subsidies, and contributions.....	1,139,010	1,149,690	1,346,752
12 Pensions, annuities, and insurance claims.....	13,602,895	12,430,805	13,550,000
16 Investments and loans.....	1,074,509	1,230,248	1,450,000
Subtotal.....	21,122,472	19,722,300	21,945,375
Deduct charges for quarters and subsistence.....	32,628	34,300	35,375
Obligations incurred.....	21,089,844	19,688,000	21,910,000

Analysis of expenditures

	1951 actual	1952 estimate	1953 estimate
Unliquidated obligations, start of year.....	\$325,215	\$489,310	\$500,000
Obligations incurred during the year.....	21,089,844	19,688,000	21,910,000
	21,415,059	20,177,310	22,410,000
Deduct:			
Reimbursable obligations.....	210,914	200,000	200,000
Unliquidated obligations, end of year.....	489,310	500,000	535,000
Total expenditures.....	20,714,835	19,477,310	21,675,000
Expenditures are distributed as follows:			
Out of current authorizations.....	20,714,835	19,477,310	21,675,000
Out of prior authorizations.....			

Mr. KIRWAN. The next item is "Tribal funds." Explain why you are requesting an additional \$226,000 for this.

Mr. MYER. This is based entirely on budgets submitted to us by tribes on how much they think they will need to operate their tribal business, and that is the basis entirely.

Mr. KIRWAN. That is their own money; is it?

Mr. MYER. That is their own tribal money; yes. It is money in the Treasury, however, which is to their credit and which we have to authorize and approve.

Mr. KIRWAN. You keep supervision over the whole thing?

Mr. MYER. We supervise any moneys in the Treasury as trust funds; yes.

LANGUAGE CHANGE

I have two further comments: One has to do with a proposed language change. The first item is under the item of "Construction," page 53, line 10, of the committee print.

After the word "granted," strike out the following:

Provided, That no part of the sum herein appropriated shall be used for the acquisition of land within the States of Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming outside of the boundaries of existing Indian reservations: *Provided further*, That no part of this appropriation shall be used for the acquisition of land or water rights within the States of Nevada, Oregon, and Washington either inside or outside the boundaries of existing reservations: *Provided further*—

That language we feel should be stricken.

Then under "Tribal funds," page 68, line 5, of the committee print, after "Secretary," strike out the following:

Provided, however, That no part of this appropriation or other tribal funds shall be used for the acquisition of land or water rights within the States of Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming, either inside or outside the boundaries of existing Indian reservations.

Now the reason we would like to have this language stricken is as follows:

The proposed amendments are to eliminate restrictions on the use of funds for land purchases in specified States. The withdrawal of supervision is dependent to a great extent upon the exchange, sale, and purchase of land to improve land tenure and use.

The majority of allotments are in an heirship status and the ownership is badly fractionated. Many of the allotments are owned by Indians who have moved to other reservations because of marriage or are living in various off-reservation cities and towns. Most of these nonresidents do not intend to return to their reserva-